

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Shinichi (JP 11283127).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, claims 1-8 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this response.

REJECTION

The independent claims are 1, 6, 7, and 8. Independent claims are amended for clarity.

Reconsideration of the After Final Amendment of December 29, 2005 and this Amendment providing remarks and claims amendments in response to the Advisory Action is respectfully requested.

The Advisory Action Continuation Sheet alleges "Shinichi teaches that after the user requests his or her reserved points, an identification data is read out transmitting the number of points that can be used as ticket [0025-0026].

Shinichi paragraph 25 discusses "transmits the number of points that can be used as a ticket ... to the host computer 100 according to **identification data of a customer** stored on each card."

Shinichi paragraph 26 discusses "After the ticket issuance processing by the ticket issuance 45, the data management section holds a balance of the number of available points written by the write unit 11 of the card reader/writer section 10 together with ticket management data of a ticket 2 read by the read unit 43 of the ticket issuance section 40 and an issue date printed by the printing unit 44 of the ticket issuance section 40 as a group for each **identification data**."

However, in both Shinichi paragraphs 25 and 26 the "**identification data**" is "**identification data of a customer**." Therefore, in Shinichi, the identification data identifies a customer, but Shinichi **does not issue the identification data in response** to a number of

points to be issued on a ticket. In contrast to Shinichi, the claimed present invention *issues* a recognition code for a number of reserved points.

Further, Shinichi's management data is ticket management data or management data printed in advance on a ticket on which ticket issuance information is to be written. In other words, Shinichi's *ticket management data is not issued in response* to a number of points to be issued on a ticket. Shinichi reads the ticket management data written on blank tickets or before-issuance tickets.

The independent claims, using claim 1 as an example, are amended as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A point-service system that can be accessed by a customer using a terminal device via a network, the system comprising:
 - a point database recording a number of points accumulated for a customer, the points being issued by one or more point-usable facilities;
 - a use management database recording identifying information of the customer, a number of reserved points, a recognition code issued for the number of reserved points, and information indicating whether the number of reserved points is used;
 - means for issuing ~~thea~~ a recognition code for ~~thea~~ a number of reserved points, in response to ~~in accordance with~~ a use request of the number of reserved points from the customer;
 - means for recording the issued recognition code along with the number of reserved points in the use management database; and
 - means for transmitting data of a point use ticket, comprising the number of reserved points that are issued and the recognition code issued for the number of reserved points, to the terminal device for use of the point use ticket by the customer.

The claimed present invention recites both "recording identifying information of the customer" and "a recognition code issued for the number of reserved points," so the claimed present invention's "recognition code issued for the number of reserved points" differs from customer identification information or differs from Shinichi's paragraph 25 "identification data of a customer."

A benefit of the claimed present invention's "issuing ~~thea~~ a recognition code for ~~thea~~ a number of reserved points, in response to ~~in accordance with~~ a use request of the number of

reserved points from the customer," is a more secure circulation of points using different facilities and/or among different point issuing facilities, because "***a recognition code issued for the number of reserved points***" for verification. See present Application page 18, line 21 to page 19, line 7.

In view of the claim amendments and the remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

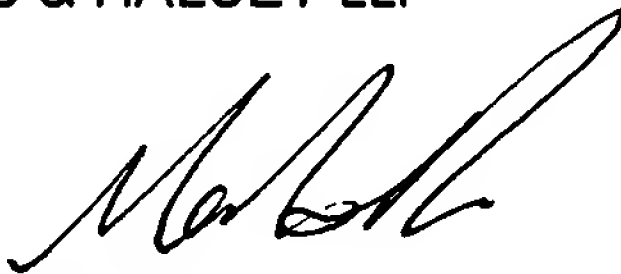
CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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